

king ; and the attentions bestowed on It at the
new moon
may be supposed to refresh and invigorate it,
thereby
refreshing and invigorating the king's life.

Baleful The Armenians appear to think that the moon
exercises
supposed ^a baleful influence on little children. To avert
that influ-
to be[^] eiice a mother will show the moon to her child
and say,
byTie" " Thine uncle, thine uncle/' For the same
purpose the
moon on father and mother will mount to the roof of
the house at
new moon on a Wednesday or Friday. The father then
puts the child on a shovel and gives it to the mother,
saying,
" If it is thine, take It to thee. But if it is mine, rear it
and
give it to me back." The mother then takes the child
and
the shovel, and returns them to the father in like
manner.¹

A similar opinion as to the noxious influence of
moonshine
on children was apparently held by the ancient Greeks ;
for
Greek nurses took great care never to show their infants
to
the moon.² Some Brazilian Indians in like manner guard
babies against the moon, believing that it would make
them
ill. Immediately after delivery mothers will hide
themselves
and their infants in the thickest parts of the forest in
order
that the moonlight may not fall on them.³ It would
be
easy to understand why the waning moon should be
deemed
injurious to children ; they might be supposed to peak
and
pine with its dwindling light. Thus in Angus it is
thought
that if a child be weaned during the waning of the
moon,
it will decay all the time that the moon continues to
wane.⁴ But it is less easy to see why the same deleterious
influence on children should be ascribed to moonlight in
general.

Use of the There are many other ways in which people
have sought
increase* to turn ^{^unar} sympathy to practical account.
Clearly the

money or increase of the moon is the time to increase
your foods.

decrease¹¹ and the decrease^{ri} of the moon^{.1} is the
sickness. time to diminish your
ills. Acting on this imaginary law of
nature many persons
in Europe show their money to the new
moon or turn it in

¹ M. Abeghian, *Der artmnische* 1823-1831), 1.
381, iii. 1186.

Volksglaube (Leipsic, 1899), p. 49. ⁴ J. Jamieson, *Dictionary
of the*.

² Plutarch, *Quacstiones Conviviales*, *Scottish Language*[^]
New Edition edited
iv. 10. 3. 7. by J. Longmuir and 1).
Donaldson

³ J. B. von Spix und C. F. Ph. von (Paisley, 1879-
1882), iii. 300 (s.v.
Martins, *Reise in Brasilien* (Munich, "Mone").